

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-01

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' COUNCIL MARCH 3-4 1975:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SECOND DAY

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 1760

B) LONDON 2692

C) EC BRUSSELS 10170, DEC 27, 1974

D) EC BRUSSELS 1861

E) EC BRUSSELS 1864

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING THEIR COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 4, THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERD DECIDED ON A REGULATION IMPLEMENTING THE EC'S REGIONAL POLICY AND DISCUSSED THE HARMONIZATION OF STATE AIDS TO INDUSTRY; ADOPTED THE 1974/75 ACTION PLAN FOR FOOD AID; AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC) AND THE IAEA; BRIEFLY DISCUSSED, WITHOUT REACHING A CONSLUSION, PROPOSALS
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FOR AN ENERGY FLOOR PRICING; AND DISCUSSED AT GREATER LENGTH

A COMMISSION DOCUMENT LAYING

DOWN GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES (SEPTEL). THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ALSO HELD DISCUSSIONS IN THEIR POLITICAL COOPERATION CAPACITY WHICH ARE REPORTED SEPTEL. THE MINISTERS' DISCUSSION ON MARCH 3 WERE REPORTED IN REFS D AND E.

2. REGIONAL FUND: THE MINISTERS APPROVED ALL OUTSTANDING DETAILS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE PARIS SUMMIT (SEE REFS A AND B). THESE REGULATIONS, HOSEVER, WERE NOT ADOPTED IN FINAL FORM BECAUSE OF A DISAGREEMENT WHICH AROSE BETWEEN THE EC COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OVER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THESE EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED AS "OBLIGATORY" OR "NON-OBLIGATORY". (THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DOES NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ALLOCATED TO A GIVEN COMMUNITY PROJECT IF IT IS CLASSIFIED AS AN OBLIGATORY EXPENDITURE.)

3. THE RESULT OF SOME 2 1/2 HOURS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE PARLIAMENT DELEGATION WAS AN AGREEMENT TO DISAGREE. THE COUNCIL MAINTAINS THAT FOR THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF ITS LIFE EXPENDITURES FOR THE REGIONAL FUND ARE OBLIGATORY WHILE THE PARLIAMENT TAKES THE OPPOSITE VIEW. DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, THE PARLIAMENT DELEGATION INDICATED IT MERELY SOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE PRINCIPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW AND DID NOT INTEND TO CHANGE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AGREED UPON IN ORDER TO LAUNCH THE REGIONAL FUND. AT ITS NEXT SESSION (MAR 10-14) THE PARLIAMENT INTENDS TO PRODUCE A SECOND WRITTEN OPINION ON THE REGIONAL FUND QUESTION. THE COUNCIL REMAINS FIRM IN ITS BELIEF THAT ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE REGIONAL FUND IS COMPLETE AND COUNCIL SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT WHEATEVER THE PARLIAMENT'S OPINION, THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATION WILL BE FORMALLY ADOPTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION EITHER AT THE FINANCE COUNCIL ON MARCH 18 OR VIA THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE. AS EC COMMISSIOER GEOERGE THOMSON POINTED OUT, THIS DELAY IS MERELY TECHNICAL AND WILL HAVE NO REAL EFFECT ON THE OPERATION OF THE REGIONAL FUND, SINCE THE ENTIRE IMPLEMENTING REGULATION IS RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 1975.

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4. COORDINATION OF STATE AIDS: THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED BRIEFLY A COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF STATE AIDS TO INDUSTRY (REF B). ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN TALK OF THE FRENCH AND DUTCH INTENTION TO LINK APPROVAL OF THIS PROPOSAL TO APPROVAL OF THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL FUND, THE COUNCIL AGREED TO PROCEED SEPARATELY WITH THE TWO PAPERS AND THE COORDINATION OF MEMBER STATES' REGIONAL AIDS WILL BE

CONSIDERED MORE FULLY WHEN THE MINISTERS NEXT MEET IN LUXEMBOURG
ON APRIL 14 AND 15.

5. FOOD AID: THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE 1974-75 ACTION PLAN FOR
COMMITMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEMBER STATES UNDER THE
FOOD AID CONVENTION. THE ACTION PLAN PROVIDES FOR A TOTAL OF
1.287,000 METRIC TONS OF GRAIN PER YEAR, OF WHICH 50 PERCENT
WOULD BE GRANTED AS COMMUNITY AID, WITH THE REMAINDER BEING
GIVEN BY BILATERAL MEMBER STATE ACTION.

6. MISCELLANEOUS: THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE COMMISSION TO
BEGIN DISCUSSIONS ON A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY AND THE IEAE.

7. WITHOUT DISCUSSION, THE MINISTERS ADOPTED THE FINAL TEXT
OF A RESOLUTION ON CONCERTED ACTION AND CONSULTATION BETWEEN
THE MEMBER STATES ON INDUSTRIAL POLICIES IN THE AERONAUTICAL
SECTOR (SEE REF C). THE TEXT OF THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE
FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT UNDER COVER OF AN AIRGRAM. GREENWALD

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